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UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART V. SOUTH WEST ASIA, NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Section 2 - Algeria

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02374

V.2 ALGERIA

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, Algeria hosted some 219,000 refugees, comprising 165,000 Western Saharans in Tindouf, south-west Algeria, 28,000 Malians and 22,000 from Niger in southern Algeria, as well as about 4,000 Palestinians and 69 refugees of other nationalities in urban areas, mainly in Algiers. Of this total, some 120,000 are being assisted, including 80,000 Western Saharans considered to be vulnerable cases. Palestinian refugees are generally integrated into Algerian economic and social life. Others, mainly students whose first country of asylum was not Algeria, are assisted by UNHCR, mainly with scholarships to supplement those granted by the Algerian Government.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

(a) Western Saharan refugees

2. At the end of October 1994, the Western Saharan refugee camps were struck by unprecedented rains and flooding. Emergency relief was sent in two UNHCR aircraft and in a third provided by the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA). UNHCR also obtained some goods locally and conducted an information campaign to sensitize donor country embassies in Algiers. Several countries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) made significant donations and most of the required relief items had been provided by the end of April 1995. With the donations received and pledged, the emergency had largely been overcome.

3. In March 1995, the Government of Algeria approved the establishment of a UNHCR outpost in Tindouf, staffed by local personnel, to facilitate assistance activities for the Western Saharan refugees.

(b) Displaced persons from Mali and Niger

4. On 23 August 1994, a quadripartite agreement for the repatriation of displaced persons from Mali was signed in Bamako by the Governments of Algeria and Mali, the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD) and UNHCR. The intention of this agreement is to facilitate the voluntary repatriation and the effective reintegration of displaced persons from Mali. At the time of signature however, the situation in northern Mali did not permit any organized repatriation to be undertaken.

5. During 1994, the Algerian Government completed the construction of four camps to house refugees from Mali and Niger. Of the four sites, only In-Ghessem and Tinzaouatin are currently operational and, in April 1995, the Algerian Government started to transfer families who had volunteered to go to these two camps. The budget for this activity will be reviewed once all the displaced persons have been regrouped. The allocation foreseen for 1995 has been reduced because of delays in distributing the material assistance to the widely dispersed refugee population.

(c) **Urban refugees**

6. Since January 1995, the UNHCR Branch Office has been obliged to reduce the number of refugees and urban asylum-seekers being interviewed because of insecurity.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) **Objectives**

7. For the Western Saharan refugees and for those from Mali and Niger, care and maintenance will continue until it becomes possible for them to repatriate. Recent developments in Mali and in Niger have raised hopes that conditions in both of these countries may soon allow some repatriation in the last quarter of 1995. Concerning Western Sahara, the Secretary-General indicated, in his report to the Security Council on 19 May, that he would assess the progress made in the implementation of the Settlement Plan by the end of September 1995. Based on this assessment, he would then make recommendations to the Security Council for the fulfilment of the United Nations mandate in Western Sahara.

8. It is planned to continue supporting refugee students until they return to their countries of origin or asylum upon completion of their studies.

9. Resettlement opportunities will be sought for some urban cases which benefit from temporary or permanent asylum in Algeria. It is significant that resettlement traditionally has not been a durable solution in Algeria. However, the resettlement option is becoming necessary due to the security situation.

(b) **Proposed budgets for 1996**

(i) **General Programmes**

a. **Care and maintenance**

10. Depending upon the progress in 1995 of the implementation of the United Nations Settlement Plan for the referendum in Western Sahara, 1996 programme proposals for Western Saharan refugees are proposed at the same level as in 1995 for the time being. Care and maintenance assistance will continue as in previous years in respect of basic and supplementary food provided by WFP as well as for the replacement of domestic items, the maintenance of water equipment and the improvement of sanitation. As in the past, particular attention will be paid to women and children, who constitute the vast majority of the assisted population. The presence of local UNHCR staff in Tindouf should permit closer monitoring and better planning.

11. In 1996, assistance will be delivered to displaced persons from Mali and Niger in the new sites that have been constructed by the Algerian Government. Basic and supplementary food will continue to be provided by WFP, and UNHCR will obtain complementary food and domestic items. Operational support will be provided to the Algerian Red Crescent (CRA) and La Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale (FOREM) in terms of staff, equipment, vehicles and administrative costs to facilitate implementation of their activities.

12. The sectoral breakdown of the initial and revised 1995 budgets and the proposed 1996 care and maintenance allocations for refugees from Western Sahara, Mali and Niger are as follows (in dollars):

i. **Western Saharan refugees**

Sector	Initial 1995	Revised 1995	Initial 1996
Food	312,080	495,400	495,400
Transport	333,110	341,181	341,181
Domestic needs	1,212,300	1,397,813	1,397,813
Water	21,131	171,943	171,943
Sanitation	13,729	6,632	6,632
Health	705,000	545,192	545,192
Community services	142,000	66,394	66,394
Education	377,650	224,772	224,772
Crop production	100,000	50,000	50,000
Livestock	220,000	187,720	187,720
Agency op. support	63,000	12,953	12,953
Total	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000

ii. **Refugees from Mali and Niger**

Sector	Initial 1995	Revised 1995	Initial 1996
Food	192,240	192,240	192,240
Transport	491,700	189,166	189,166
Domestic needs	900,000	300,000	300,000
Water	2,650	72,446	72,446
Health	200,000	110,363	110,363
Crop production	0	1,865	1,865
Income-generation	0	6,477	6,477
Agency op. support	113,410	127,443	127,443
Total	1,900,000	1,000,000	1,000,000

13. In addition, $ 41,000 and $ 40,900 are budgeted for assistance to urban refugees in 1995 and 1996 respectively.

(c) **Implementing partners**

(i) **Western Saharan refugees**

14. In 1996, CRA will continue to be the major implementing partner of UNHCR for the delivery of assistance to Western Saharan refugees. CRA is mainly entrusted with the transportation of material from the ports of Algiers and Oran to the Tindouf

region. In June 1994, a new CRA President was elected and a new team was designated to work with UNHCR. As a result, significant improvements in project implementation have been observed.

15. The NGO Enfants Réfugiés du Monde will contribute to the training of refugee women in infant health care and to the development of day care centres. It is also expected that One World Action will cover the agricultural sector in Tindouf.

(ii) Refugees from Mali and Niger

16. The CRA has established a team in Tamanrasset to deal specifically with the programme for displaced persons from Mali and Niger. In addition, FOREM also implement a number of activities.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

17. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part 1 (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditures (all sources of funds)

18. The 1994 expenditure was lower than revised estimates due to the security situation which resulted in a reduction in programme activities. The non-filling of the post of Legal Officer, as well as lower general operating expenses, offset the increased costs incurred as a result of international staff being obliged to live and work in a hotel.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

19. Revised 1995 requirements are lower than initial estimates. Due to the prevailing insecurity in Algeria, general operating expenses and the procurement of equipment has been reduced.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

20. Initial 1996 requirements are approximately the same as revised 1995 requirements. The 1996 requirements may eventually need to be reviewed in view of the establishment of an outpost in Tindouf, recently agreed by the Government, and taking into account developments regarding the voluntary repatriation of Western Saharan refugees.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN ALGERIA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
4,728.7	5,466.7	4,541.0	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	4,540.9
0.8 a/	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
2.4 a/	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
516.3	568.5	497.1	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	503.7
5,248.2	6,035.2	5,038.1	SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS	5,044.6
37.3	57.2	43.7	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	45.4
5,285.5	6,092.4	5,081.8	TOTAL (1)	5,090.0
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
11.5	20.8	–	EDUCATION ACCOUNT	–
0.7	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	–
2,487.1	–	–	Extra–budgetary Food	–
58.1	38.9	–	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
2,557.4	59.7	0.0	TOTAL (2)	0.0
7,842.9	6,152.1	5,081.8	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	5,090.0

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes